

# A Gender Variance Who's Who

Essays on trans, intersex, cis and other persons and topics from a trans perspective.....All human life is here.

**This site** is the most comprehensive on the web devoted to trans history and biography. Well over 1400 persons worthy of note, both famous and obscure, are discussed in detail, and many mentioned in passing.

There is a detailed **Index** arranged by vocation, doctor, activist group etc. There is also a **Place Index** arranged by City etc. This is still evolving.

In addition to this most articles have one or more labels at the bottom. Click one to go to similar persons. There is a full list of labels at the bottom of the right-hand sidebar. There is also a search left. Enjoy exploring!

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28 March 2017


## Sally's Hideaway and Sally's II - nightclub

In the mid 1980s, after the coming of AIDS, the masculist gay sex bars in New York, the Anvil, The Mineshaft, the Toilet, went out of business, either voluntarily or under pressure from the city. **The Anvil** had in its early days featured **Felipe Rose** who dressed as a Native American (he was Lakota on his father's side) and was later recruited for the **Village People** disco group. The Anvil also put on drag shows. It closed in November 1985, and Conrad, its manager, moved to Blues, a nightclub at 264 W 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Blues was popular with those working in the sex trade around Times Square. This did not work out, and late 1986 – the year that **Harry Benjamin** died – the nightclub was re-opened as Sally's Hideaway, managed by two femme queens: **Sally Maggio** and **Jesse Torres**, the hostess manager.

Sally and Jesse had worked in the early 1970s at the trans/gay 220 Club, at 220 West Houston Street, where **Lou Reed** drank and was presumed to have named his album and track, *Sally Can't Dance*, after the manager (although it was photographs of his trans lover, **Rachel**, which appeared on the inner sleeve). Sally and Jesse then worked at the Greenwich Pub, at 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 13<sup>th</sup> Street, which attracted gay trans and their admirers.


Sally's Hideaway put on go-go boy contests, male stripping and drag shows – some by transsexuals. Trans entertainers such as **Dorian Corey**, **Jayne County**, **Angie Xtravaganza** performed. The customers were a mix of pre-op transsexuals, drag queens, cross-dressers, transvestites, chasers, male strippers and all kinds of hustlers.

There was a serious fire in 1992. Sally moved the club a few doors away to 252 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, which was attached to the Carter Hotel. It was now known as Sally's II, or simply Sally's. The bar was circular, two flights up from the street, and there was also a small lounge, up another flight of stairs at the side of the bar. Behind the bar there was a wall of doors permanently closed until one day Sally discovered the unused theatre of the Carter Hotel, only another set of doors away from the hotel lobby. Sally's II expanded into this space and used the stage. Drag pageants and drag balls were held, usually hosted by or in homage to the ballroom legends of the day: **Octavia St. Laurent**, **Pepper LaBeija**, **Avis Pendavis**. **Paris Dupree**'s "Paris is Burning" ball was held here in 1992, and the subsequent 1990 film included opening and ending sequences shot outside Sally's, and strongly featured Dorian Corey and Angie Xtravaganza.



Grace

There was also the **Amazing, Electrifying Grace**, lip synch performer and comedienne, who had started in the Anvil, and when that closed she emceed and performed at Greenwich Pub for Sally Maggio, and then at Midtown 43 where she did a Sunday Night drag revue. Midtown 43 closed in 1989, by which time Grace was also working at Sally's. After the fire and the move she was given a steady gig emceeing Sunday and sometimes Monday night. At Midtown 43 Grace had had a following among the butch queens of the ball house crowd, but these did not feel at home in Sally's.



Monica Mugler outside Sally's II

Trans musician **Terre Thaemlitz** dj'd there in the early 1990s, until fired for refusing to play the music that was in the charts. The Transy House people, **Rusty Mae Moore**, Chelsea Goodwin, Julia Murray, Sylvia Rivera, Kristiana Th'mas, went as a group and were regarded as a 'house' in the Paris is Burning sense. Self-described tranny-chaser **Jonathan Ames** was also found there, and the club is featured in his bildungsroman and the subsequent film, *The Extra Man*.

This and That - r replacement after withdrawing from

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
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Sally Maggio died in October 1993. Jesse Torres continued the club, although Mayor [Rudolph Giuliani](#), real estate interests and the Walt Disney Corporation were changing the character of the Time Square area. Jesse died, unexpectedly, in September 1996 while attending the Miss Continental Pageant in Chicago. Giselle, a long-time Sally's barmaid, took over, but business was waning. After a series of police busts, Sally's closed in November 1997.

- Lou Reed. *Sally Can't Dance*. RCA Records, 1974.
- Jennie Livingstone (dir). *Paris is Burning*. With Dorian Corey, Paris Dupree, Pepper Labelja. US 71 mins 1990.
- Jonathan Ames, *The Extra Man*. Scribner, 1999: 91-9, 107-110, 144-5, 157-9, 209-210.
- Brian Lantelme. "Sally's Hideaway". *LadyLike*, 46, 2001: 17-21. [Online](#)
- Shari Springer Berman & Robert Pulcini (dirs) *The Extra Man*. Scr: Robert Pulcini & Jonathan Ames, based on the novel by Jonathan Ames, with Paul Dana as Louis Ives and Gisele Alicea as Miss Pepper. US 108 mins 2010.
- Jeremy Reed. *Waiting for the Man: The life and Career of Lou Reed*. Overlook Books, 2015: 82.

[www.sallys-hideaway.com](http://www.sallys-hideaway.com)

The one and only account of Sally's is at [www.sallys-hideaway.com](http://www.sallys-hideaway.com), The author is identified only by email address as Brian Lantelme, which explains why the *Ladylike*, 46, 2001 account is virtually the same. However Lantelme does not mention Lou Reed, Jonathan Ames, Terre Thaemlitz or Rusty Rae Moore.

There is no mention at all of Sally's in Julian Fleisher's *The Drag Queens of New York*, 1996. There is no mention at all of Sally's in Laurence Senelick' *The Changing Room: Sex, Drag and Theatre*, 2000,

I would have liked more information about the Amazing, Electrifying Grace, and her transfer from the Anvil to Midtown 43 to Sally's. Was her act the same, or did it change to reflect the audience?

The Anvil was, in effect, a gentleman's club: women, cis or trans were not usually admitted as customers, although it is said that Lee Radziwill, sister to Jackie Onassis, frequented the place in male drag.

Time: 14:29 

Labels: [nightclubs](#), [Paris is Burning](#), [Sally's](#)

## 4 comments:



**Brian L** 6/7/18 23:56

Love this blog post. You added some items not included in my written history on my Sallys website which I find very interesting. Grace's act btw remained essentially the same..she was known I think for her Grace Jones but she did Whitney and Tina Turner. You could check with Gina Germaine who's still with us. Just had 30+ images published in Candy Transversal Magazine from that era. The best time of my life documenting the scene at that time ..Brian Lantelme

[Reply](#)



**Debra** 17/7/21 21:46

I was a dancer and peep show girl from Peepland and Show World from 1990 to 1996. Frequented Sally's as I knew my fellow hustlers, boy toys trannys and gender bending friends would watch over a county girl like me. Nothing but wonderful memories of beautiful people and a sense of family among the regulars. I remember the lips singing shows the look like contests like Diana Ross Whitney Houston and more.. and boy toy nights. It was a flamingly beautiful moment in my life! Thank you for sharing the blog.

[Reply](#)



**El ropero del Diablo** 11/8/22 21:07

sally's 2 is also in the documentary "mirror mirror"about consuela cosmetic

[Reply](#)



**Barbie Satin** 7/4/23 22:48

I only ever visited Sally's one time back in the 80's when I was a curious young man in my 20's. I didn't stay there long and now wish I had spent the evening there. I would return to NYC in 97 as a trans dominatrix but for some reason I never made a visit to Sally's in its final year. With my luck I would have shown up on a night it was busted and would have gotten arrested. NYPD Vice had tried to bust me several times at the dungeon I worked out of.

[Reply](#)



Enter comment



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# Lad's Weekly

Exploring & Expressing Femininity

**Profile Girl  
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**Roxy Wilson:  
Roxy Goes  
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**Brenda Lawrence:  
Hormones**

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Always A  
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**...and  
photos,  
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**Special Foto Feature**

**Sally's  
Hideaway**

US\$12 - Can\$24



# Sallys Hideaway

Photos & text by Brian Lantelme



▲ Carmen Xtravaganza

Octavia St. Laurent ►



▼ Barbara Kent



▼ Octavia St. Laurent ►



◀ Tiffany



# Sally's Hideaway

**Sally's Hideaway** was a Times Square nightclub located at 264 West 43rd Street, between 7th and 8th Avenues, from 1986 to 1992. Times Square, during those days, in contrast to the Village, was the place where Black and Latin drag queens and hustlers were in their element, where sex was more a business than a form of recreation. Sally's was owned by a man named Sally Maggio. Maggio's previous business venture had been the **Greenwich Pub**, at 8th Avenue and 13th Street in Greenwich Village, opened in the early 80's. This was a popular gathering place for transgenders, gays and their "admirers." Sally began his "show biz" career as manager at the infamous 220 Club. The 220 Club was the foremost venue for the transgender crowd in its day, a distinction later shared by the Greenwich Pub, Sally's, and, later, Sally's II.

Sally's Hideaway was damaged by fire in 1992 and Sally, undeterred, moved a few doors down the block to 252 West 43rd Street. Renamed Sally's II, it would thenceforth be known simply as Sally's. Sally's conveniently connected by way of a catwalk to the lobby of the Carter Hotel. The 24-story Carter Hotel towered monumentally over the cityscape, its huge red neon sign visible for miles, a phallus, a temple, its rooms available for the "short stay."

Sally's had a circular bar two flights above the street, and a small lounge up another small flight of stairs to the side of the bar. The low-ceilinged lounge area consisted of a dozen small cocktail tables, a pool table, a parquet-tiled open area set aside for the drag shows and go-go boy contests. Behind the bar a wall of doors remained permanently closed until one day Sally discovered that the Carter Theatre lay beyond. This large, shabby, unused space, originally the hotel's dining room, contained another long set of doors to the immediate left as you entered the room from the bar area which opened directly into the lobby of the Carter Hotel. This space had apparently once been converted to a 70's-style disco, the mirrored disco ball and strings of flashing lights and spotlights still in working order around its expansive dance floor. It was into this space that Sally's II expanded, coming into its own, a venue for numerous drag pageants as well as a number of drag balls hosted-by or in-homage-to the great ballroom legends of the day - including Octavia St. Laurent, Pepper LaBeija, Danielle Revlon, Avis Pendarvis. It was here that Paris Dupree's "Paris is Burning" ball was held, the annual ball from which the documentary, "Paris is Burning," took its name.

Sally took his emcees - Dorian Corey, Angie



Xtravaganza, who was the Mother of the House of Xtravaganza, and the "Amazing, Electrifying Grace" with him from Sally's Hideaway to Sally's II. Another emcee, who died shortly after the move, was the famous Chaka Savalas. Both Dorian and Angie were principals in the film "Paris is Burning," and both were considered "Legends" within the drag ball world. It should be noted that - fittingly - the opening and ending sequences of "Paris is Burning" were shot outside Sally's Hideaway.

Sally Maggio died in October, 1993. His friend and business partner, Jesse Torres, managed the bar following his death. It was during this period that Times Square, under Mayor Rudolph Guliani and the real estate interests, began to undergo re-development. The vibrant street culture was stopped dead in its tracks by power-hungry politicians and greedy corporations intent on remaking Times Square into its own bland, safe, sanitized, commercialized, cynically re-packaged, contrived image.

Jesse Torres, tragically, died quite unexpectedly while attending the Miss Continental Pageant in Chicago in September, 1996 and Giselle, a long-time Sally's barmaid, was installed as the new manager. Sally's II, however, teetered on, closing off the ballroom space as business waned, sadly relegated to a small alcove area a few steps above the front bar, until it finally closed its doors forever, following a series of Guliani-inspired police busts, in November, 1997.

All of Sally Maggio's businesses had one thing in common — they were places where the dark and ravishing beauty of those denizens of the City of Night flourished - and it is in a spirit of awe and wonderment at the expression of freedom and the strong, flawed, fearless, tragic, and heroic humanity I found at Sally's Hideaway and all its satellite venues that this site is dedicated to Sally, Dorian, Angie, Grace, Jesse and the very many wonderful, beautiful, inspiring people who passed through those doors.

Here then, for your viewing delight, are the women of Sally's Hideaway.

LL

*Brian Lantelme has produced cover photos for the Styles section of The New York Times, The Village Voice, New York Magazine and several other international publications. He had a one-man exhibition of his work in New York City in 1994 entitled The Times Square Show on Transsexual Identities and received a Bronx Council on the Arts' Career Development Award that same year. Brian has been working on organizing material produced in the late 80's to mid-90's for two books of photography on "old" Times Square and the drag balls of Harlem. He is currently working extensively with Black Inches Magazine and Latin Inches Magazine.*

# Sallys Hideaway



Paulette

Paulette



Misha

More photos on page 40

Visit Brian's website

<http://www.sallys-hideaway.com/>

Octavia St. Laurent



Octavia St. Laurent



Barbara Kent



Paulette



Barbara Kent

